

## **APPENDIX A CORRESPONDENCE**



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



West Virginia Field Office  
Post Office Box 1278  
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

**MAR - 1** 1999

James S. Everman  
Chief, Planning Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Dear Mr. Everman:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received your letter dated February 12, 1999 requesting our input on the proposed Marlinton Flood Protection Project. This response is based on the information presented during the November 9, 1998 field visit to the project site.

Two structural alternatives have been retained for detailed analysis. Both alternatives include a floodwall/levee along Stoney Creek and between the town of Marlinton and the Greenbrier River from the upstream end of the city to the mouth of Knapps Creek. One alternative (floodwall only) proposes to extend the floodwall/levee up the north side of Knapps Creek. The other alternative (floodwall with diversion) includes a diversion of flood flows from Knapps Creek to the Greenbrier River through a cut in Buckley Mountain. A nonstructural alternative was evaluated, but is no longer being considered.

Based on the analysis provided so far, both structural alternatives have similar cost-benefit ratios. In addition, both alternatives will have similar impacts to the Greenbrier River and Stoney Creek, however the "floodwall with diversion" alternative will have greater environmental impacts in the Knapps Creek area primarily due to the impacts associated with placement of spoil material from the cut-through. Given the lack of any distinct flood protection or cost advantages between alternatives, and the potential for environmental impacts to the Knapps Creek area under the "floodwall with diversion" alternative, the Service recommends that the "floodwall only" alternative appears to be a preferable option.

However, the current study only evaluates the engineering feasibility of the structural alternatives. Additional factors, such as the source of material used to construct the floodwall, geotechnical factors affecting the cut-through, potential downstream impacts from future flooding, and the ecological impacts and associated mitigation costs of the project, must be

considered. A thorough evaluation of all project impacts should be presented to the public and the resource agencies before selection of a final preferred alternative is made.

We recommend that if the "floodwall with diversion" alternative is retained, the Huntington District evaluate alternate methods and locations for disposal of the excess fill, including completely incorporating it into levee/floodwall construction. Fill should not be placed in high quality habitat areas, or in such a manner that would encourage additional construction in flood prone areas. The Service encourages the District to incorporate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures into project design. Insuring that this requirement is included as an essential component of the project will expedite project reviews and allow the project to move forward on a more accelerated schedule.

The Service looks forward to continuing cooperative efforts as you proceed with this project, and will work to support the least damaging practicable alternative that will provide a reasonable level of flood protection to the affected community. Please direct any questions regarding these comments to Barbara Douglas of my staff at (304) 636-6586 or call me directly at the same number.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey K. Towner*

Jeffrey K. Towner  
Field Supervisor



**TOWN OF MARLINTON**  
**709 SECOND AVENUE**  
**MARLINTON, WV 24954**  
**PHONE: 304-799-4315**  
**FAX: 304-799-6159**

1999 APR 12 4 05 PM

Colonel Dana Robertson  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Colonel Robertson:

The Town of Marlinton, hereinafter called "Sponsor", is interested in obtaining Corps of Engineers' assistance in addressing flooding problems in Marlinton, West Virginia.

The Sponsor is aware of the cost sharing requirements associated with a flood damage reduction project and is willing to undertake the following non-Federal cost sharing requirements associated with the Corps' flood damage reduction projects. At this time, the locally preferred plan is Option 2 as described in the Greenbrier Limited Evaluation Report dated December 1997. However, the Sponsor is aware that there are some risks in pursuing Option 2 and therefore agrees to have preliminary designs of both Option 1 and Option 2 carried forward through the Detailed Project Report. The Sponsor is also aware that a Construction Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) cannot be executed and no real estate can be acquired until all necessary environmental studies have been completed.

A. The Corps will complete the design phase of the project, including plans and specifications, prior to execution of a Construction Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

B. If the project proceeds to construction, then the Sponsor will contribute the non-Federal share of the design costs at the beginning of the year of construction. The non-Federal cost share is currently estimated to be 14 percent for both design and construction.

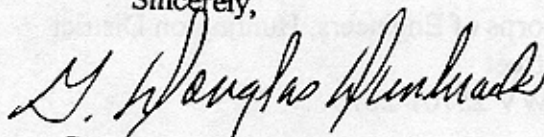
C. The non-federal share of construction consists of provision of lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the project (LERRD), plus a cash contribution of 5% of the total project costs; in approximately 14% of the total project cost, the non-Federal sponsor must contribute additional cash to equal 14%, if LERRD plus 5% exceeds 14%, the sponsor will contribute no more than a maximum 50% of the total project costs;

D. The non-Federal sponsor is required to prepare a floodplain management plan within one year after signing a PCA. The plan is to be implemented within one year after completion of the project.

E. The non-federal Sponsor is responsible for operating and maintaining the project upon completion.

The sponsor is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent and does not represent either a financial or contractual obligation on the part of the Sponsor or the Federal government. The Sponsor is anticipating using monies supplied by the State of West Virginia to finance the design and construction of any project. The Sponsor or the Corps may opt to discontinue the project development process during the design phase.

Sincerely,



G. Douglas Dunbrack  
Mayor, Town of Marlinton





**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Wildlife Resources Section  
Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 812  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston WV 25305-0664  
Telephone (304) 558-2771  
Fax (304) 558-3147  
TDD 1-800-354-6087**

**Cecil H. Underwood  
Governor**

**John B. Radtke  
Director**

February 11, 1999

Mr. A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Huntington District  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr. Borda:

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has completed a preliminary review of the Marlinton Flood Protection Project. Two alternatives were presented. Both alternatives include a flood wall on Stoney Creek and a flood wall between Marlinton and the Greenbrier River from the upstream end of the city to the mouth of Knapps Creek. One alternative (flood wall) proposes to continue the flood wall up the north side of Knapps Creek to high ground. The other alternative (diversion) extends the flood wall across Knapps Creek to high ground. This alternative includes a pumping station to pump water from Knapps Creek to the Greenbrier River and diversion of flood flows of Knapps Creek to the Greenbrier River through a cut in Buckley Mountain. A diversion dam will be constructed in Knapps Creek to permit normal flow to pass through the existing channel. Both alternatives provide equal protection to the residents of Marlinton and preliminary cost estimates indicate approximately equal cost.

Both alternatives have the same impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat in and along Stoney Creek and the Greenbrier River. Evaluation of impacts and development of mitigative measures will be required.

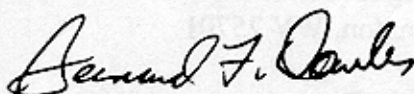
The flood wall alternative will incur impacts to riparian and terrestrial habitat on the north bank of Knapps Creek. The diversion alternative will impose significant impacts to upland habitats to create the diversion channel from Knapps Creek to the Greenbrier River. Construction of the diversion channel will produce an unknown amount of material that will require disposal. The yet to be identified disposal sites will likely impact upland habitat.

Mr. A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.  
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February 11, 1999

Due to the relatively minor impact of the flood wall alternative, it is the WVDNR's opinion that an environmental assessment will meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The diversion alternative will likely require an environmental impact statement, because of the excavation, earth moving, disposal of excess material and other construction activities. This will increase the cost of the diversion alternative and increase the time between planning and construction beyond that required for the flood wall alternative.

Environmental impacts of the flood wall alternative are expected to be far less than the diversion alternative. The flood wall alternative will not alter current flushing flows in Knapps Creek and the normal stream flow regime will be maintained in the lower portion of the stream. Since the level of protection and cost of the alternatives are basically identical, the WVDNR recommends that the Huntington District pursue the flood wall alternative and discontinue further examination of the diversion alternative.

Sincerely,



Bernard F. Dowler, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section

BFD/jrj





WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF  
CULTURE AND HISTORY

July 26, 2001

Mr. Anthony Borda, Jr.  
Department of the Army  
COE  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

RE: Marlinton Local Protection Project  
FR#: 01-1211-PH

Dear Mr. Borda:

We have reviewed the letter report for the above mentioned project. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

The current letter report for the Marlinton Local Protection Project provides information on results and interpretations for use in the interim coordination with our office. The report broadly defines the results of an architectural reconnaissance of Marlinton, identifying those historic resources already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, recommending additional properties eligible either individually or as contributing to a district, and suggesting issues for further research. Additionally, the report provides preliminary effects determinations for the three project alternatives.

In general, we approve of the methodology used in evaluating the architectural resources for their National Register eligibility. Summarized, properties must possess the majority of their physical or associative characteristics of integrity in order to be considered either potentially eligible individually, contributing to an identified historic district, or requiring further investigation. Under this criteria, several individual properties and two historic districts were identified as possibly worthy of inclusion in the National Register. Of those buildings preliminarily recommended as individually eligible, four are ecclesiastical properties. Due to the special consideration for religious properties, an evaluation of the historic integrity for the buildings' interiors would assist us in our determination of eligibility under Criterion C.

From our knowledge of Marlinton we concur that the neighborhood surrounding the courthouse and the dwellings that constitute tannery row probably do constitute historic districts. However, please ensure that your assertions are supported by discussions regarding the historic context of these areas in the final report. Similarly, please defend with more detail your determination



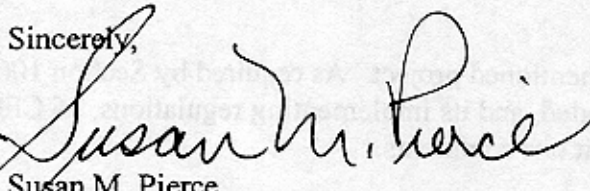
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Mr. Anthony Borda, Jr.

that an historic district does not exist in Marlinton's commercial core. We look forward to reviewing your final eligibility report.

It would be premature for us to comment on the undertaking's impact to historic resources before National Register determinations and boundaries are established. However, from the descriptions presented in the letter report, each project alternative has the potential to adversely impact, either directly or indirectly, architectural resources eligible for the National Register. As such, please include mitigation strategies for affected resources in your final effects assessment report.

*If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please call me at (304) 558-0220, Ext. 158.*

Sincerely,



Susan M. Pierce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP: mh



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

465 Ragland Rd.  
Beckley, WV  
25801

Phone:  
(304) 255-9225

Fax:  
(304) 255-1250

Scott Truesdale, P.G.  
Tetra Tech, Inc.  
One Skyline Place, 5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1400  
Falls Church, VA 22041

RE: Local Protection Project in Marlinton, Pocahontas  
County, WV

September 10, 2001

Mr. Truesdale:

The above referenced project does not contain Prime or Unique Farmland, Statewide Important Farmland, or Locally Important Farmland, because the area has already been urbanized. The soil types of Ch, Lo, Tg, and Us may be found in your project area, descriptions of these soils may be found in the Pocahontas County Soil Survey.

I have completed a Form AD-1006, please see attached.

If you have any further questions, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

*Robert N. Pate*

Robert N. Pate  
Resource Soil Scientist  
Robert.Pate@wvbeckley.fsc.usda.gov

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## Pocahontas County Important Farmland Map Units

### Prime Farmland

AlB	BaB
CeB	Ch
CuB	DuB
LlB	Lc
MaB	MrB
Ph	Se
ShB	Tg

us

### Statewide Important Farmland

AlC	BaC
BaD	BeB
BeC	BeD
BoB	CgC
CeC	CeD
CuC	CuD
DuC	LlC
LlD	LyB
LyC	MaC
MaD	Or
ShC	

### Locally Important Farmland

At  
Ho  
MdC  
Mdd  
Po  
Pt  
Pu  
Sc

### Hydric Soils

At  
Ho  
Mh  
Pu  
TrC  
Uf





**WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF  
CULTURE AND HISTORY**

October 17, 2001

Mr. Michael Worley  
Department of the Army  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701

RE: Marlinton Local Protection Project  
FR#: 01-1211-PH-1

Dear Mr. Worley:

We have received the draft report "Architectural Reconnaissance, Marlinton Local Projection Project, Pocahontas County, WV" for review as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties."

We accept the draft report with the following requests for additional information: that a new map is provided of the area with street names and a label for Buckley Mountain; the potential downtown historic district is outlined; name change for the Second "Street" historic district is changed to Second "Avenue."

Our comments on the recommended alternatives and their effects are as follows:

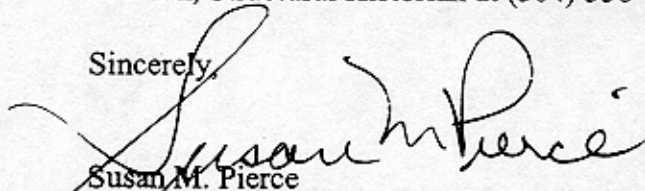
Alternative 1 - This alternative would be an adverse effect with the demolition of Upper Tannery Row and other potential buildings in the Courthouse Residential District and South Second Avenue Historic Districts. There will be visual effects to Second Avenue and the Courthouse Residential Districts. We concur that mitigation for the demolition would include further documentation of the workers housing on Upper Tannery Row with Historic Property Inventory forms, measured drawings, archival black and white photographs and a history of their connection to the local industry that can be placed for public use in both the local library and with the county historical society. Demolition of other properties in any historic district would also be documented following the steps already outlined above. Mitigation for the visual effects can be further discussed with our office and with property owners, but would likely include appropriate landscaping.

Alternative 2 - Our office requests a map detailing where the canal would be located. This alternative appears to have less of a visual impact for the Courthouse Residential District and part of the Second Avenue Historic District. The adverse effect to the historic properties facing the Greenbrier River would be the same for the visual impact near Second Avenue Historic District and the demolition of Upper Tannery Row as well as potential other properties. Mitigation for the visual effects can be further discussed with our office and with property owners, but would likely include appropriate landscaping.

Alternative 3 - This alternative would have a potential adverse effect. Our office would work on a case by case basis to continue consultation with the Core of Engineers and the property owners who may choose this program.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Jourdan, Structural Historian at (304) 558-0220, ext. 156.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Pierce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP:kmj